The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Whatever fosters militarism makes for barbarism; whatever fosters peace makes for civilization.—Herbert Spencer.

WHOLE NO. 1282 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1935 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 25, NO. 45

Southern Newspaper Criticizes Mill Villages Owned by Textile Magnates

Editor of Raleigh "News and Observer" Says They Are a "Bar to the Forward Movement of Free Men in a Free South Toward Industrial Happiness and Industrial Understanding."

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Editor's Note.—The following editorial, entitled "Forgotten Villages," criticizing the system of company-owned houses, which is a feature of the oppression imposed on their employes by Southern textile mill magnates, appeared in the "News and Observer," Raleigh, N. C., in connection with the recent action of the Mooresville Cotton Mill Company in evicting strikers from the company's houses.

Strikers and mill owners have been in the Courthouse in Concord over the eviction of strikers from the company-owned houses in the Mooresville Cotton Mill Company's mill village. Few will disagree with Judge J. H. Clement in his exposition of the law in the case to the effect that while the company has a right to evict families at any time without giving a reason, as every property owner has, it must give the occupants due notice, as required by law. But the law is not enough. The South ought also to remember that when the President put the textile code into effect in July, 1933, he said:

"The planning committee of the industry, provided for in the code, will take up at once the question of employe purchase of homes in mill villages, especially in the South, and will submit to the administration before January 1, 1934, a plan looking toward eventual employe home-ownership."

Commenting on that statement at the time The News and Observer said:

"Such a declaration means no less than the abolition of the most pernicious form of industrial feudalism in America. . . . Under the best paternalistic manufacturers, mill villages in some instances were provided with better living facilities than workers generally could secure for themselves with the wages which they received. . . . Yet always they lived well by the grace and permission of the manufacturer whose big house often sat apart as a manor house from which all hope and all justice must come. Benevolence came down; only work and obedience went up from the people. Self-government and the control of their own homes was denied the inhabitants of the best Southern mill villages. The paternalistic management may have provided better conditions than the workers themselves would have provided, nevertheless, the worker was denied the democratic right of shaping his own community and even his own home.

"Not all mill villages were excellent, even after a paternalistic pattern. No Southerner is unfamiliar with other mill villages composed of rows of half-tumbling houses, as innocent of plumbing as of paint, which send their uncertain steps to unsightly yards and streets. No Southerner who has observed industrial conflict in the South is unfamiliar with the practice of making the mill worker's tenancy of mill houses a factor adverse to him in collective bargaining, and a weapon to be used against him in the form of eviction when the mill owner desired to express his displeasure at any worker's act or the act of the majority of the community. Strikes and evictions in many instances were one and the same thing in many Southern mill communities.

"In both the best and the worst mill villages the workers have been too much set apart from other men and women. They were segregated from their employers. Paternalism sapped them of their strength, and segregation robbed them of association with the freer citizens around them. Mill villages owned by the people who live in them would cease to be such mill-maintained ghettos for mill-controlled men. Owned by their inhabitants such villages would lose the undesirable qualities of their identity with the mill and become, like other sections of cities, residential sections in which men and women live not ruled nor regimented, but in independence and freedom."

That was in July, 1933.

It is now October, 1935, and if the planning committee ever made any move toward the fulfilment of this high enterprise, there is no sign of it. The mill village remains in Mooresville and in every other town where textiles are manufactured in the South, the same blight on a free South that it was before July, 1933. Contentions, court decisions, and a fall from the spirit of idealism behind courage which marked the summer of 1933 have intervened. The mill village has been forgotten. But the mill village remains now as then, a bar to the forward movement of free men in a free South toward industrial happiness and industrial understanding.

NEWARK DRESS MAKERS WIN 9-WEEKS' STRIKE

Fifteen Hundred Workers Affected By Settlement Which Provides Closed Shop, 40-Hour Week and Minimum Wages.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Newark, N. J.—Recent settlement here of the nine-weeks' strike among employes of the cotton dress industry here brought to a successful close what was probably the most bitterly contested labor battle ever waged in the cotton dress industry in the East.

The strike, which was sponsored by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, was provoked by an attempt of the employers to take advantage of the decree of the United States Supreme Court abolishing the National Industrial Recovery Act to reduce and deflate work conditions to sweatshop standards.

The agreement, signed in the office of Mayor Ellenstein, affects 21 shops, employing 1,500 workers.

When considered in the light of work conditions prevailing in the unorganized cotton dress shops of New Jersey, the agreement is a decided gain. It establishes the closed shop, a $9 minimum weekly wage scale for floor girls and $11 for operators, and stipulates that additional wage increases shall be made as soon as the contractors are able to modify present terms with their jobbers.

For the settlement of piece work rates price committees are created and impartial machinery provided for final disposition of discharged cases and other disagreements between the union and employers.

Working hours are to be limited to 40 a week. Overtime will be permitted only with the consent of the union, and limited to cases of emergency, at the rate of time and a half.

Other important clauses in the agreement, which is to remain in effect for one year, include the right to inspect the books and payrolls, to check up on complaints for underpayment or to discover jobbers or manufacturers supplying work to the contractor; equal division of work in each and every department; election of chairladies, etc.

Termination of the strike was celebrated with a big parade. Although many of the strikers were girls, new to trade unionism, they are said to have conducted themselves during the strike much like veterans. When the final settlement was reached, many of them, with tears streaming down their faces, shouted: "We have won; we have won!"

GREEN SAYS MINNEAPOLIS RED SITUATION IS LOCAL

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, issued the following statement relative to newspaper reports that the Federation had inaugurated in Minneapolis a nation-wide drive against Communists in trade unions:

"Contrary to reports which have been given wide circulation the American Federation of Labor has not launched a national drive in Minneapolis or elsewhere against the so-called 'Reds' or any other group.

"The facts are that the situation being handled in Minneapolis through the organizers of the American Federation of Labor stationed there is a purely local one and possesses local significance only.

"An internal situation existing in the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, together with dissensions which arose over the suspension of a local organization which had been affiliated with an international organization connected with the American Federation of Labor called for action on the part of the officers of the American Federation of Labor.

"The situation will be dealt with as an incidental problem which is frequently met in the administration of the work of the American Federation of Labor."

HUTCHESON IS INDORSED BY A. F. OF L. COUNCIL FOR CHILE LABOR PARLEY

Green Says Selection of Carpenters' Brotherhood President Has No Political Significance and Brands As False the Inference That It Is a "Reprisal Against Any Individual or Group Connected With the Organized Labor Movement."

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor recommended the appointment of William L. Hutcheson, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, to represent American Labor at the International Labor Conference which will be held at Santiago, Chile, in December. The conference was called by the International Labor Organization at Geneva, of which the United States became a member in August, 1934. The delegate is appointed by President Roosevelt.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, issued the following statement "regarding certain inferences drawn" from the appointment of Mr. Hutcheson:

"The officers of the American Federation of Labor never understood that political considerations of any kind entered into the designation of labor representatives to International Labor Organization conferences. Recommendations of workers' delegates for attendance at these International Labor Organization conferences have been made without regard to politics or political considerations.

"This fixed policy was adhered to when the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor recommended William L. Hutcheson, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America for appointment as the workers' delegate to the International Labor Organization conference which will be held at Santiago, Chile, next December.

"The American Federation of Labor pursues a non-partisan political policy. It assumes that the constitution of the International Labor Organization means exactly what it says when it provides that workers' delegates are chosen from industrial organizations which are most representative of working people in their respective countries.

"Mr. Hutcheson is the president of a large organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Neither his political beliefs nor those of any other person who has attended conferences of the International Labor Organization upon recommendation of the American Federation of Labor have been taken into account by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

"It has never been understood that anyone connected with the administration of affairs of the United States Government set up any political qualifications for any representative of the workers who might be appointed to attend conferences of the International Labor Organization.

"The inference drawn by anyone that the apointment of Mr. Hutcheson to attend the International Labor Organization conference at Santiago, Chile, could be regarded as a reprisal against any individual or group connected with the organized labor movement is without foundation, false in every particular and unworthy of a moment's consideration.

"The officers of the American Federation of Labor were requested to recommend the appointment of a Labor representative connected with the American Federation of Labor to represent the workers at the International Labor Organization conference which will be held in Chile next December. No stipulation regarding political affiliation or political consideration was made in the request submitted. In response to the request, the Executive Council recommended the appointment of William L. Hutcheson, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. Labor cannot believe that this recommendation can be or will be rejected for merely political reasons."

SOUTHERN MINERS WIN WAGE INCREASE PACT

New Contract Includes Advance of 50 Cents a Day for Day Men and 9 Cents a Ton for Coal Loaders.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Knoxville, Tenn. — Victory has crowned the efforts of union coal miners of Eastern Tennessee and Southeastern Kentucky, members of local unions comprising District 19, United Mine Workers of America.

A new agreement reached with the Appalachian Operators' Association, with only four operators left out, embodies all the features of the national agreement which resulted in calling off the recent national bituminous coal strike.

Wages Raised 50 Cents Per Day

A convention of miners was held in Jellico, November 2, at which District President Turnblazer announced the terms of settlement.

The contract in its general features extends until April, 1937, and carries an increase of 50 cents a day for all day-wage men; nine cents a ton for all coal loaders and 10 per cent increase for all yardage and dead work.

Operators were represented in the negotiations by L. C. Gunther, E. C. Mahan and C. M. Moore, all of the Association. Miners were represented by President Turnblazer, members of the District Scale Board and a representative from the office of John L. Lewis.

Alabama Still Out

Settlement in the Southern Appalachian coal fields brings every coal-producing area in the South into agreement with the national contract, with the exception of Alabama. Virginia, the Harlan and Hazzard fields in Kentucky, then Southern Tennessee signed in the order named. It is generally believed that Alabama operators will soon be obliged to capitulate.

BURNS ELECTED PAPER MAKERS' HEAD; HUGGINS IS CHOSEN SECRETARY

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Albany, N. Y.—An international canvassing board which counted referendum votes of the election of officers of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, has completed its work and made its report to the membership from the headquarters of the union here.

The Paper Makers are governed by the referendum both as to changes or amendments to its laws as well as the election of officers and the terms of office run for two years.

The referendum declared the reelection of the following officers to be unanimous: Matthew J. Burns, Albany, N. Y., president; Arthur Huggins, Albany, N. Y., secretary-treasurer; David S. Larner, Tonawanda, N. Y., auditor; Frank P. Barry, Balston Spa, N. Y., first vice president, and Arthur D'Aoust, Hull, Quebec, fifth vice president.

There were contests for other offices. George J. Schneider of Appleton, Wis., was elected by a large majority as second vice president over Edward Packenham of Escanaba, Mich. Mr. Schneider is a member of Congress, representing the Ninth Wisconsin District. Joseph Addy of Troy, N. Y., was elected by a large majority as third vice president over Paul Mikonis of Haverhill, Mass. John W. Bailey of Holyoke, Mass., was elected as fourth vice president by a large majority over Archie Hook of Hamilton, Ohio, and James P. Nical of Thorold, Ontario, was elected as sixth vice president by a large majority over John Murtaugh of Hull, Quebec.

There was a contest for the delegation to the American Federation of Labor, with three candidates for the delegation of two and this was won by Mr. J. Burns, president, and Arthur Huggins, secretary-treasurer, with F. P. Barry having the low vote.

This will make the fourth consecutive term for M. J. Burns and the fifth term for Arthur Huggins. The Paper Makers retain their headquarters in the Broadway Arcade Building at Albany, N. Y., their own building having been destroyed by fire last January.

Bergoff's Strikebreaking and Spy Activities Against Labor Outlined

Edward Levinson Says the "Red Demon" Has Sent His Army of Thugs Against Workers in 300 Industrial Disputes.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Editor's Note.—In an article by Edward Levinson, entitled "Strikebreaking, Incorporated," in the November Harper's the following account is given of the Bergoff Detective Service, notorious for its use by anti-union employers as a spy and strikebreaking agency against the workers.

Today the best known, though no longer the most extensive, of the strikebreaking agencies is that operated by a gentleman named Pearl L. Bergoff, whose bare offices and waiting room full of eager strikebreakers are located behind the ornate facade of a Fifth Avenue building in New York. In the past 12 months, Mr. Bergoff has managed in one way or another to get himself into the public eye.

Three Departments

As one of the outstanding strikebreakers (Bergoff lays claim to being the third and reigning Strikebreaking King) his methods richly illustrate the technique of the profession. His direct and thorough manner with strikers somewhat justifies the title of "Red Demon," which the newspapers bestowed upon him 25 years ago.

The Red Demon has divided his men into three principal departments, in reality selling points rather than actual divisions of his organization. These have been the "Undercover Department—male and female mechanics and workpeople . . . to furnish accurate information of the movements and contemplated actions of their fellow employes; Open Shop Department—to keep the wheels of industry moving during a strike; Protection Department—composed of big disciplined men . . . for the protection of life and property."

"Finks," "Nobles" and "Boots"

Within the profession less formal descriptions are used. The men hired by a strikebreaking organization to keep the wheels of industry moving are "finks"; the guards are "nobles," while the spies are "boots." It was imaginative members of the I. W. W. who first called strikebreakers "finks." They borrowed this underworld term used to designate "a criminal who is dissatisfied with his loot" and gave it a new significance: one who betrays his fellow workers for money. The professional strikebreakers have accepted the designation with complete unconcern as to its implications.

The nobles, most of whom are gangsters, act as overseers as well as guards. Finks are frequently unreliable. Some will enlist as strikebreakers for the sake of free transportation and then try to depart. Others will flee at the first sign of violence, while still others will discover, belatedly, that the jobs for which they signed up are strikebreaking affairs. In these cases the guards have the additional duty of keeping the finks in line.

Paid $10,000,000

Bergoff has sent his army against workers in more than 300 strikes since 1907. Over a period of 10 years, from 1914 to 1924, the Red Demon and his partners divided $10,000,000 in income. In 1909 the Pressed Steel Car Company at McKees Rocks, Pa., called the Bergoff bureau to its aid. The determined strikers staged a 50-day siege of the fink barracks, while inside, the nobles ruled a panic-stricken army with club and fist. Rebellion broke out within the stockade, while 11 strikers and guards were killed outside.

Philadelphia Blacklist

The Federal Department of Justice came on the scene and caused the arrest of Bergoff and his aides for peonage. Only the speedy settlement of the strike, in victory for the workers, halted the prosecution.

In Philadelphia a year later, Bergoff undercover men prepared a blacklist of 612 union men, of whom 125 were promptly discharged. A strike with more than the usual amount of rioting and bloodshed followed. As a result of the disruptive work of Bergoff undercover men within the union, the walkout ended in defeat for the strikers.

The agency reaped its gains for years after. Bergoff sent his spies from city to city, ferreting out blacklisted Philadelphia strikers. When one of them was discovered, the agency immediately dispatched letters of warning to the traction managers. The former strikers lost their new jobs, and with their families moved once more in search of new employment. This service the Bergoff agency performed gratis as an indication of its efficiency and a sample of the type of work it was prepared to offer.

Seventeen Strikers Killed

Bergoff has given freely of his men in service to American industry, yet the score is altogether in their favor. If the record of fatalities in nine major strikes which Bergoff tried to break were reduced to box-score simplicity, the table would show:

Strikers killed by strikebreakers, 17; strikebreakers killed by strikers, 6; men, women and children killed by strikebreaker-driven trolley cars, 21; bystander killed by strikebreaker, 1; strikebreakers killed at work, 3 (two of them on trolleys); strikebreakers killed by strikebreakers in barracks, 4; strikebreakers killed in Bergoff's New York office, 2. Total killed, 54.

Though the field for professional strikebreaking is today narrowed by company unions, by racketeers (themselves introduced into industry as gangster nobles), and by private espionage systems such as those maintained by the automobile industry and the United States Steel Corporation, there is not a large city in the county where private detective agencies will not be glad to furnish informers, finks and nobles. Of the 187 licensed detective agencies in New York, 55 make urgent solicitation for strikebreaking work. Their technique differs only in degree from that of the Red Demon, while half a dozen have had careers fully as violent as that of the Bergoff Service Bureau.

Labor Board Files Complaint Against Fisher Flouring Mills, Seattle, Wash.

Alleges Discrimination Against Union Members and Promoting Company Union.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Seattle, Wash. — Two complaints against the Fisher Flouring Mills of Seattle, Wash., for alleged interference with the rights of collective bargaining, for discriminating against its workers, for refusal to bargain with them collectively and for promotion of a company union, in violation of the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Act, were served in Seattle by Charles W. Hope, Regional Director for the National Labor Relations Board.

In one complaint charges of unfair labor practices were filed against the mills by Federal Labor Union No. 19169, representing production workers in the mills, and in the other complaint the Weighers, Warehousemen and Cereal Workers' Local No. 38117, an affiliate of the International Longshoremen's Association, entered charges.

Both charges are similar in their allegations against the mills. Threats, letters and acts of violence are ascribed to the company in attempts to restrain the workers from joining outside labor unions and to coerce them into joining an organization called Plant Employes' Association.

Workers have been on a strike in the mills since early October, and it is reported that the mills' products have been moved under armed guards. The company is a large exporter of flour to other States and to foreign countries.

It was announced that a hearing on the two complaints would be held before Examiner Harry Hazel in the Federal Office Building here.

Longshoremen's Union Orders Boycott Of "Hot Cargo" Ships in Gulf Strike

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York, N. Y.—Joseph P. Ryan, president of the International Longshoremen's Association, ordered a boycott by members of his union on Gulf shipping and maritime interests which refuse to recognize the association. Mr. Ryan announced that the boycott was immediately applicable at North Atlantic ports to all ships from ports in Alabama, Louisiana and Texas in cases where "the owners have refused to do business with us."

Members of the Longshoremen's Association on the Pacific Coast had already refused to handle "hot cargo" ships—a longshoreman's term for ships loaded by non-union workers—coming from the Gulf. They acted under instructions from William J. Lewis, district president.

Members of the International Longshoremen's Association have been on strike in ports along the Gulf Coast for five weeks in the endeavor to persuade shipowners and operators to negotiate a wages and hours agreement with the union.

Minneapolis Candy Workers Win Wage Increase Strike

Minneapolis, Minn. (AFLNS).—Wage increases and the 40-hour work week, establishment of seniority rights and other benefits have been won for every union worker in the candy industry here.

Following short strikes, agreements were reached with all employers, with one exception still pending. Negotiations were carried on by members of the Candy Makers Union, assisted by Roy Wier, representing the Central Labor Union.

Success of this organizing work adds 500 workers to the union membership in Minneapolis immediately, with many more to follow.

Iowa Labor Federation Head Hits "Security Wage" Rates

Cedar Rapids, Iowa (AFLNS).—"Wrecker of wages" was the epithet hurled boldly at the Iowa WPA Director L. S. Hill, in a scorching letter of protest over "security wage" rates, sent to the Director by J. C. Lewis, president of the Iowa State Federation of Labor.

President Lewis hotly contended that Hill is not in sympathy with President Roosevelt's program, which is regarded as strange, since the Director is reported to be on two Federal payrolls himself. Hill is said to have admitted his authority to pay prevailing wage rates on WPA projects, but has so far refused to do so, with no other indication of a reason than "spite" over some unexplained action of the President.

Birmingham Packing Plant Workers Win Union Shop

Birmingham, Ala. (AFLNS).—About 275 workers employed in local meat packing plants, after being out on strike against one firm and "laid off" by another for several weeks, have gained a clear-cut victory here with the signing of a union agreement.

The workers are members of Federal Union No. 19054. They were represented in negotiations by V. C. Finch of the A. F. of L. and others, while John R. Steelman, Labor Department Conciliator, brought the warring factions together. Conciliation and arbitration is provided for future grievances, if any, while workers now expect peace and increasing prosperity in the local packing industry.

Easton Fur Workers Win Pay Boost and Union Shop

Easton, Pa. (AFLNS).—A 50 per cent increase in wages, the 35-hour work week and a closed shop contract, were the net result of a victory won here by 140 fur workers, as the result of a brief, four-day strike.

The Kost Fur Company, one of the "runaway" firms from New York during the late lamented NRA, with its Section 7-A, capitulated after an effective strike, fully supported by the Central Labor Union, proved the power and ability of the union to enforce its demands for decent wages and working conditions. A resolution of thanks to the Central Labor Union was passed by the local union of fur workers at the same meeting where terms of settlement were accepted.

New York Bakery Workers Strike for Union Shop

New York, N. Y. (AFLNS).—Refusal of the Cushman-Purity Bakeries Corporation to enter into negotiations with Bakery Factory Workers No. 50 resulted in a strike of employes of that firm, according to Joseph Schmidt, member of the Executive Board of Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union of America.

It is contended that recognition of the union was rejected, because the corporation wants to protect the "freedom of employed workers," which is coming to be a more or less common evasion.

Sunday Closing Law Asked By Muskegon Meat Cutters

Muskegon, Mich. (AFLNS).—Ordinances prohibiting grocery stores and meat markets from opening on Sundays in Muskegon, Muskegon Heights and North Muskegon are being sponsored by Meat Cutters, Butchers and Helpers No. 350, in cooperation with business men of Greater Muskegon.

An old "Blue Law" enacted many years ago and never repealed might have been invoked, but Mayor W. W. Richards and other city commissioners agreed that a new law regulating Sunday closing is more desirable.

Petitions have been circulated by the union and interested business men, with a very favorable response. The union has been assisted in the effort by Albert Maas, representative of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, who have been in Muskegon for some time conducting an organization drive.

Lemont Aluminum Strikers Are Solid for Union Shop

Lemont, Ill. (AFLNS).—Picket lines, manned by several hundred volunteer workers, continue to hold tight in Lemont and LaGrange, as renewed determination and growing enthusiasm were manifested among members of Aluminum Workers' Local Union No. 19078. Despite a campaign of intimidation on the part of Aluminum Trust bosses, the workers have been on strike for several weeks appear destined to win their valiant battle against starvation wages and impossible working conditions.

According to E. Mikel and George C. Bee, officers of the union, the Aluminum Products Company violated the terms of an agreement signed some time ago between the management and representatives of the workers and has since refused to come to terms with the union.

Unorganized Silk Workers Are Paid Starvation Wages

East Stroudsburg, Pa. (AFLNS).—Due to lack of organization in proper unions, a breakdown in wages paid in Monroe County silk mills approaching unbelievable slavery is being experienced.

Employes of the M. & G. Silk Mill of East Stroudsburg, a labor storm center for some time past, is reported to be paying in some instances wage rates of lower than 10 cents an hour. The L. A. W. Mill also recently asked workers to accept a 20 per cent wage reduction.

Battle Creek Stove Makers Strike Goes to Labor Board

Battle Creek, Mich. (AFLNS).—Striking employes of A-B Stoves, Inc., out since early in October, have carried their fight to the Regional Labor Board in Detroit. This board has announced that its findings have been filed with the National Labor Relations Board, which is expected to declare that the Wagner National Labor Relations Act has been violated by the A-B concern, which has been striving to operate on an "open shop" basis.

W. H. Hifley of the Foundry Employes and a committee, along with W. Egan of the Stove Mounters represented the workers before the board. Strikers and their families are being cared for, largely by donations, and all are apparently determined to win.

"Security Wage" Brings WPA Strike in Buffalo

Buffalo, N. Y. (AFLNS).—A strike of all skilled workers on WPA and ERB projects here was called November 4 by the Building Trades Council, which is carrying on an energetic fight for payment of prevailing wage rates. This action is in keeping with a resolution passed by the New York State Federation of Labor at the August convention in Albany and followed ineffective meetings with the State WPA Administrator. Opposition to so-called "security wages" is general throughout the State.

Strutwear's Anti-Union Policy Slapped by Minneapolis Mayor

Minneapolis, Minn. (AFLNS).—The attitude of the Strutwear Knitting Mills in their fight against employes on strike has brought about general condemnation, Mayor Latimer, after weeks of fruitless effort, finally joining members of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers in alleging unfair tactics by the firm.

An election is expected to be conducted soon under auspices of the National Labor Relations Board to select representatives for collective bargaining, whom the company will be obliged to recognize.

METAL MINERS ASK BOYCOTT OF ANTI-UNION CONCERNS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Kansas City, Mo.—Mineral miners in the Tri-State District, organized in August, 1933, now find several thousand of their members "locked out" since May, 1935. They are still out and are seeking the active cooperation of organized labor everywhere.

An appeal has been issued to labor to close all markets for products that are produced from ore that is mined in the Tri-State District. Companies operating in the district include the Eagle-Picher Company, Commerce Royalty and Mining Company, Century Zinc Company, Federal Mining and Smelting Company and others. The companies are reported to have fostered "company" unions, with the protection of hired guards and the National Guard. A union statement said:

"We have had a long battle against some of the richest mining interests in the world, and we need the help and cooperation of all labor. With this cooperation we can bring victory not only to the miners, but to all organized labor in the district, which has some of the most unscrupulous employers in the United States."

H. F. Martin Is Appointed To Texas Accident Board

Dallas, Texas (AFLNS).—A prominent member of organized labor has been sworn in as a member of the Texas Industrial Accident Board, specifically named as a representative of employes.

H. Fred Martin, long a member of Dallas Typographical Union No. 173, was given the appointment by Governor Allred, thus recognizing the ability of a union man whom all believe will fill the office capably.

St. Louis Unions Plan Return of Stage Shows

St. Louis, Mo. (AFLNS).—The Central Trades and Labor Union of St. Louis has decided to exert all possible effort for the return of stage shows, in order to provide needed employment for stage hands and others whose work is essential to stage productions. An urgent request to this effect has already been placed before the managers of seven St. Louis "first-run" theaters and similar activitity will be continued.

Roosevelt Names Furuseth Labor Delegate To Seamen's Conference at Geneva

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt appointed Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's Union of America, as the Labor member of the American delegation to the International Seamen's Conference which opens at Geneva, Switzerland, November 25. The other members of the delegation are Robert W. Bruere, representing the United States Government, and Samuel Aitken, vice president of Moore & McCormick, representing American ship operators.

The program of the conference includes the manning of seagoing ships, the question of hours of labor on board ship and vacations with pay for persons employed in the Merchant Marine.

These questions cover all personnel, including officers, in the different departments, whether on deck, in the engine room, or in the steward's department on sea-going ships.

The conference is of a preparatory character. It will consider the possibilities and the outline of an international agreement on the questions scheduled in its program for submission to a further conference in the fall of 1936 for final decision.

The interval between the two conferences will give governments, shipowners' associations and seamen's organizations an opportunity for considering in detail the reports and proposals to be framed as a result of the preparatory conference.

Mr. Furuseth is in his eighty-second year. He is the oldest national trade union executive in the United States, having been president of the Seamen's Union since 1908 and a delegate to the American Federation of Labor conventions since 1893.

Despite his age, Mr. Furuseth is one of the most vigorous personalities in the organized labor movement. Last year he was prominent in the San Francisco dock strike, participating in directing the seamen's part of it from a hospital, where he was being treated for stomach trouble.

He returned to Washington prior to the opening of the Seventy-fourth Congress last January and attended to his work as legislative representative of the Seamen's Union until Congress adjourned in August, when he went back to San Francisco to look after the interests of the seamen on the Pacific coast.

He traveled across the continent to attend the fifty-fifth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor at Atlantic City in October and vigorously participated in the discussions on legislation designed to benefit seamen and to curb the activities of injunction judges.

At the conclusion of the Federation convention he came to Washington for a few days to shape up seamen's measures for the coming session of Congress, and then, with his appointment as a member of the American delegation to the Geneva conference in his pocket, he boarded a train here for New York and sailed for Europe on the ocean liner Manhattan.

Mr. Furuseth's many friends, both within and without the labor movement, wish him a pleasant journey, constructive results for improving the welfare of the seamen, and a safe return to the United States in time for the opening of the second session of the Seventy-fourth Congress next January.

Tacoma Labor Backs Drive For Union Label Products

Tacoma, Wash. (AFLNS).—The Tacoma Central Labor Council determined to support a campaign for home-made, union-made products, to counteract the tendency of local merchants to favor "sweatshop" wares in the stores. At a recent meeting it was brought out that about everything from cheap toys to furniture and British Columbia lumber is flooding local markets, depriving local workers in great number of a livelihood.

Suitable resolutions to provide for action were adopted and competent committees named. Now the big drive to keep local people working and the "homes fires burning" is on in earnest.

Detroit Auto Workers Union Joins Central Labor Body

Detroit, Mich. (AFLNS).—Plymouth Local Union No. 51, recently chartered by the International Union, United Automobile Workers of America, set an example for other local unions by promptly affiliating with the local central body, the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor.

Gerald Corkum is president of the local, which was formerly known as Automobile Workers Federal Local No. 18676, when it was affiliated directly with the A. F. of L.

LABOR BOARD RULES AGAINST TRAILER CO.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board overruled a motion to dismiss the complaint of alleged unfair labor practice served by it October 22 against the Fruehauf Trailer Company, Detroit, Mich.

Two complaints were issued by the board against the Fruehauf Company, one alleging the discriminatory discharge of six employes and the other the discharge for union activity of one employe, which actions, the complaints alleged, violated the unfair labor practices provision of the Wagner-Connery Labor Relations Act.

The company's motion to dismiss was based on an allegation that the board has no jurisdiction over either the company or the subject matter. It contained a deposition by Earl L. Vosler, vice president of the company, to the effect that the trailer manufacturing operations are local in character and distinct from the sale or shipment of trailers of the Detroit plant.

It was announced that all three members of the board would attend the hearing on the charges in Detroit. The board members are J. Warren Madden, chairman; John M. Carmody and Edwin S. Smith.